



ST. BONIFACE



Bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ

Parish Priest
Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV

Assistant Priest
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February 18, 2024 –FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The New Creation: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday of Lent – Lent bids us to return to the innocence of our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of Baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle. And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation (see [Hosea 2:20](#); [Isaiah 11:1-9](#)). We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel. Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God (see [Mark 1:11](#); [Luke 3:38](#)), living in harmony with the wild beasts (see [Genesis 2:19-20](#)), being served by angels (see [Ezekiel 28:12-14](#)). Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death (see [Romans 5:12-14, 17-20](#)), Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the “gospel of God” that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom. In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son (see [Colossians 1:13-14](#)). We were made children of God, new creations (see [2 Corinthians 5:7](#); [Galatians 4:3-7](#)). But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness (see [1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 9,13](#); [Deuteronomy 8:2, 16](#)). We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Saviour—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm (see [John 14:6](#)). He feeds us with the bread of angels (see [Psalm 78:25](#); [Wisdom 16:20](#)), and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel.

From Bishop Philip Egan: “*Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation* (2 Cor 6: 2). We are now entering the joyful season of Lent, a time of real personal renewal and – I would like to suggest – a time of renewal for us all as the People of God within our Diocese of Portsmouth. This Lent, I wish to invite everyone in the Diocese, clergy and faithful in our schools and parishes, to undertake with big-heartedness the three Lenten works of prayer, self-denial, and charity, offering them for the renewal and the mission of the Church in our Diocese. May we bring many more souls closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. Let's pray to God for His grace and for the gifts of His Holy Spirit that we might ‘turn the ship.’”

Lenten programme at St Boniface: we pray for a deep spiritual renewal, as we undertake this beautiful journey to prepare for the celebration of Easter. Jesus asks us to deepen our prayer life, to practise self-denial and to give special attention to works of charity.

Exploring the Book of Genesis: every Friday in Lent beginning **16 February at 6:30pm in the church hall.**

This will be followed by **Stations of the Cross** at **7:15pm** in the church.

We will then have **Eucharistic Adoration until 8:30pm**, with the opportunity for individual confession.

Lenten Rosary Prayer Chain – please join our Prayer Chain again this Lent! You take one decade of the Rosary to say at your convenience, each day. Same decade each day, united to everyone else's. It's a very powerful form of prayer! Catheryn will be collecting names and giving out decades after all this weekend's Masses. If you miss her and wish to join, please email catherynhulme1@hotmail.com or ring 07534110228.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 23 February: this Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools, and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at www.cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

St Boniface Lenten Soup Lunches 2024 have started last Friday (16 February) from 12 noon in the parish hall **and then every Friday until 22 March, at the same time.** All proceeds will go to CAFOD. Please try and support this worthy venture and meet up with fellow parishioners. (Soup-makers are urgently needed to make a vegetarian soup on a rota basis. Any help or support would be most welcome to ensure that this venture, which helps to bring the parishioners of St Boniface together on a regular basis, can continue. Please contact Catherine Keogh by emailing catherine.keogh@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.)

Baptism: on Sunday 25 February, **Zikorammachukwu Jason** will be welcomed in the holy embraces of God. Please pray for him & his family.

The St Boniface Sunday 11am Choir are looking forward to preparing music for the Holy Triduum. There will be 5 practices respectively on: **Thursday 29 Feb (8-9pm); Thursday 7 March (8-9pm); Thursday 14 March (8-9pm); Thursday 21 March (8-9pm); and Tuesday 26 March (7:30-8:30pm)**. If you would like to sing or play music to help with this, please message: **Mike Wood** (mikejwood2@gmail.com) or speak to him after 11:00am Sunday Mass or any of the music group leaders at Church.

Come and join us for a Quiz! All are welcome! Proceeds will go to CAFOD. Where: **Church hall**. When: **Saturday 16 March**. Time: Please arrive **7.45pm for an 8pm start**. Finishing 9.30pm (approximately). Teams should be a maximum of six please. You can come as a ready-made team or be joined to a team on arrival. £1 per person entry. Raffle. Bring your own drinks and we will provide the glasses!

St Boniface Senior Citizens' Bingo Group meets every Wednesday 1:30pm – 3:30pm in the Church Hall. For more details: please contact either Sue on 07920 793615; or Carol on 073787 65998. All are welcome.

St Boniface Table Tennis Group meets twice a week every week throughout the year (apart from if there are parish activities and Good Friday) on **Tuesday & Friday afternoons 2-3pm in the Hall**. For details contact the Parish Office. All are welcome.

St Boniface Knit & Natter Group meets every Monday morning 10am-12noon, at the St MC Room. All are welcome.

St Boniface Parish Toddlers' Group meets every other Tuesday (school term times only) in our Church Hall. Donations of £1 per family is welcome. Their next meeting is on **20 February 9:30am**.

Mary's Meals: this year, why not create a positive change for the next generation and help Mary's Meals to reach more of the world's poorest children with the promise of a daily meal by sponsoring a school. This has a huge impact, not only on the children, but on their families and wider communities. Simply choose the size of school you wish to sponsor, and Mary's Meals will contact you to discuss your options and then allocate a school to you. And then it's over to you – you can choose to make your donation upfront, or in stages, or you can begin to fundraise within your community! To find out more about how you can Sponsor A School in Malawi or Zambia and pledge to cover the cost of feeding every pupil at the school for an entire year, please visit Mary's Meals [website](#).

Lenten Retreat 2024: an Advance Notice from St Vincent de Paul RC Church: "At St Vincent de Paul, we are organising the Lenten Retreat scheduled to take place on **Saturday 16 March 10am- 4pm in our Church**, to be led by the Dominican Sisters. The Day's donation is £10 per head with light refreshments provided. If anyone is interested in obtaining more information, please get in touch with the parish administrator at: svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk All are welcome!

Family Day of Recollection: Saturday 23 March, 10am-3:30pm. Join the Dominican sisters in the New Forest for a family day! There will be teaching for all the family, games, craft, food, Mass, and a walk. This day is aimed at families with children up to the age of 8. For more information or to book a space, email catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com Suggested donation of £20 per family.

Diocesan Liturgy News Update: "We are pleased to announce that we will be organising two training days in 2024 - one for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and one for Readers. These will be held at **St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke** as follows: the **Day for EMHC – Saturday 4 May**; and the **Day for Readers – Saturday 19 October**. Both days will run **from 9:30am to 2:30pm** and will include some light refreshments. Please enrol now if you would like to by emailing: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk . We will send further reminders with precise details nearer each date. If, you need any guidance or assistance with liturgy in your parish, please do reach out to us, and we would be happy to support you. Kind regards, Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy, by contacting Mary Anne Normand, Administrator to the Vicariate for Vocation: manormand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk ."

Mass Intention Offering - Please be advised that offerings can be made by cash (in an envelope clearly marked "Mass Intention"), or by cheque payable to **CDP Oblates of the Virgin Mary**; or via a bank transfer using the details given here: Payee Name: **CDP Oblates of the Virgin Mary**; Branch Sort Code: **30-80-27**; Account Number: **36062268**; Reference: **Mass Intention**. Or simply give it to the Priest on the day of your Mass requested/attended.

There will be 2 Second Collections on **Sunday 25 February: Lent CAFOD Day; and St Boniface Building & Maintenance**. Please support.

Diocesan Recruitments: please follow the link <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs> for current vacancies throughout the Diocese. This is a [permanent link](#) which will be kept up dated with all current vacancies throughout the year.

Presbytery: St Boniface House, 413 Shirley Road,

Southampton SO15 3JD Tel: 023 8077 0277

Parish website: www.st-boniface.org.uk

Parish Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbonifacesouthampton>

Parish Office opening hours: Mon to Fri - 9:30am to 12:30pm

Parish Secretary: Margaretta Livingstone

office@st-boniface.org.uk Tel: 023 8077 3640

Safeguarding Officer: Angela Braga

safeguarding@st-boniface.org.uk

Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@st-boniface.org.uk